(c) The matter has been referred to the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. Any further action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Council.

Promotion of officials of Excise and Customs Deptt./Income Tax Deptt.

†3478. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group 'A' Officers of Income Tax Department and the Department of Central Excise and Customs are promoted after four years but Group-II and Group-III Officers remain deprived of promotion and if so, the reasons for such anomaly in the matter of promotion in the same Department;

(b) whether Government propose to take any initiative for removing this anomaly and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes is going to take any action in this regard, if so, the the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Indian Revenue Service (IT) and Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) Group 'A" Officers in the junior time scale with not less than four years regular service in the grade are eligible for grant of Senior Time Scale on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness and subject to availability of vacancies as per Recruitment Rules. Similarly, Officers in other Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts are eligible for promotion subject to fulfilling the minimum qualifying service as prescribed in the Recruitment Rules. Officers in Group 'C' posts are eligible for promotion subject to fulfilling the eligibility condition of minimum qualifying service as prescribed in the recruitment rules applicable to the respective post(s) and subject to availability of vacancies.

There is no anomaly in promotions in Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts. Promotions are made as per conditions laid down in the respective Recruitment Rules and availability of vacancies in the respective grades.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.